

Amendments to the Claims

1. – 28. (cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method for a mobile data device to determine a new network to acquire out of a plurality of networks based on a plurality of preference criteria provided in a preferred roaming list on said mobile data device, the method comprising the steps of:

a.waiting until a new network needs to be acquired;

b.choosing the network to acquire at said mobile data device based on said plurality of preference criteria stored on said mobile device, the preference criteria including a list of service features the mobile data device supports; and

c.starting a search for the new network,
wherein the mobile data device gives preference to various ones of the plurality of preference criteria to create the ranking of available networks.

providing information about the plurality of networks in a preferred roaming list, the preferred roaming list comprising

a plurality of preference criteria associated with each of the plurality of networks; and

a list of service features supported by the mobile data device;

waiting until the new network needs to be acquired;

identifying which of the plurality of networks support a first one of the plurality of preference criteria by inspecting the first one of the plurality of preference criteria of each of the plurality of networks in the preferred roaming list; and

selecting the new network from the identified networks;

starting a search for the selected new network.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said plurality of preference criteria includes at least geographic information and data capability information.
31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the plurality of preference criteria further includes information about whether each of the available networks support data roaming for the mobile data device.
32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the plurality of preference criteria further includes whether each of the available networks supports mobile IP.
33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the plurality of preference criteria further includes whether each of the available networks supports an always-on device.
34. (Canceled)
35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said plurality of preference criteria further includes a list of services the network supports.
36. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said choosing step can find no networks are available.
37. (Canceled)
38. (Canceled)
39. (Canceled)
40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)